



Law Offices of Bennet & Bennet, PLLC

Maryland

6124 MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
Tel: (202) 371-1500
Fax: (202) 371-1558
www.bennetlaw.com

District of Columbia

5185 MacArthur Boulevard, NW, Suite 729
Washington, DC 20016

Caressa D. Bennet
Michael R. Bennet
Marjorie G. Spivak*
Howard S. Shapiro

* Admitted in DC & PA Only

Daryl A. Zakov^
Robert A. Silverman
Erin P. Fitzgerald
Frederick W. Giroux#

^Admitted in DC & WA Only
#Admitted in DC & MA Only

June 27, 2017

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
ETC Annual Report of Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.
Study Area Code: 259002

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. ("Pine Belt Cellular") and pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules,¹ we are submitting FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert A. Silverman

Robert A. Silverman
Counsel for Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

Attachments

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
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No

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**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

NA

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered both fixed and mobile voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	0 . 0
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
259002a1510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	Yes

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	259002a1610.pdf

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

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**(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Pine Belt Communications Co. Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Donna Counselman
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3343854025 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance 259002a11010.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
<015>	Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

259002a11210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP <http://www.pinebelt.net>

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}		
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:		
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:		
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:		
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="text"/>

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	_____
---	--	-------

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	_____
--	--	-------

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	_____
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Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	259002
<015> Study Area Name	PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC.	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/23/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer: JOHN NETTLES	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: PRESIDENT	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 3343855001 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 259002	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

**Certification - Agent / Carrier
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	259002
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	donna@pinebelt.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
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<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	14.99

<703>

[illegible]

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	259002
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<810>	Reporting Carrier	Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Pine Belt Communications Co. Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.

[illegible]

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (SAC – 259002)
Demonstration of Complying with Applicable Service Quality Standards
And
Consumer Protection Rules

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (“The Company”) hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations with CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers’ privacy. The Company also conforms to the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service in the following ways:

- Rates and terms of service are disclosed to consumers;
- Maps are available showing where service is generally available;
- Customers are provided with contract terms and service changes are confirmed;
- The Company allows a trial period for new service;
- Specific disclosures are provided in advertising;
- Carrier charges are separately identified from taxes on billing statements;
- Customers are given the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms;
- Customers have ready access to local customer service;
- The Company promptly responds to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and
- The Company abides by policies for protection of customer privacy.

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (SAC – 259002)
Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (“The Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)¹.

The Company is prepared to ensure continued service in an emergency situation. Twenty (20) percent of The Company’s cell sites are equipped with permanent generators. The Company maintains an inventory of portable generators for use at other sites as necessary. Approximately fifty (50) percent of The Company’s sites are served via redundant fiber optic backhaul facilities. The Company has adequate growth capacity built into its critical network choke points to handle traffic spikes. By making the necessary translation changes at its mobile switching center The Company is cable of rerouting traffic as may be required in an emergency situation.

Additionally, The Company generally follows the same guidelines, policies and procedures with respect to restoring services in the event of an emergency or widespread network outage as that of its ILEC affiliate, Pine Belt Telephone Company. These standards have been in place for many years and are periodically reviewed and modified to ensure said procedures remain applicable.

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (SAC – 259002)
Demonstration of Complying with Voice Services Comparability

Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that its fixed voice service is no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10). The Company has a fixed voice local service rate of \$14.99 which is less than the national average monthly rate of \$22.49.

LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PINE BELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC. AND PINE BELT CELLULAR, INC. D/B/A PINE BELT WIRELESS

What Is Lifeline Assistance?

- Lifeline Assistance is a government assistance program that provides a monthly credit to the telephone service bill of residential customers. Lifeline Assistance is designed to make basic telephone service and broadband Internet access service (minimum of 10 Mbps downstream/1Mbps upstream, with monthly usage allowance of 150 Gigabytes) even more affordable for qualified customers.
- If you qualify for Lifeline Assistance, Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc. ("Pine Belt Telephone") or Pine Belt Cellular, Inc. d/b/a Pine Belt Wireless ("Pine Belt Wireless") (together, "Pine Belt") will discount your charge for fixed or mobile telephone service or broadband Internet access service by \$9.25 each month.

What Restrictions Apply to the Lifeline Program?

- **Lifeline Assistance is a federal benefit – willfully making false statements or providing false or fraudulent documentation in order to obtain the benefit can result in a fine or imprisonment or cause the subscriber to be de-enrolled or barred from the program.**
- Lifeline Assistance is only available for one Lifeline supported service – fixed or wireless (cellular) voice telephone or broadband Internet access service – per household. The household may not receive Lifeline benefits from more than one company.
- For purposes of the Lifeline program, a "household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share in the household's income and expenses. A household may include related and unrelated persons.
- The household may not receive Lifeline benefits from more than one service provider – that is, if someone in the household receives a Lifeline discount on wireless (cellular) service, the household would not also qualify to receive a discount on home phone service.
- Violation of this "one-per-household" rule is a violation of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the Lifeline Assistance program.
- Lifeline Assistance is also a non-transferable benefit – it is a violation of federal law to rent, sell or give away your Lifeline service to any other individual, including any individual who may be eligible for Lifeline Assistance.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Assistance?

Lifeline Assistance is available to customers who have an annual household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of its size **OR** who participate in any of the following low-income assistance programs:

- ❖ Medicaid
- ❖ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ❖ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ❖ Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- ❖ Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

You may also be eligible for Lifeline Assistance even if you do not personally participate in one of these programs, as long as an individual who lives in your household participates in at least one of these programs.

What Proof of Eligibility Do I Need to Provide?

Qualifying Based on Annual Household Income

If you want to qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on your annual household income, your household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size. NOTE: Federal Poverty Guidelines are updated annually; updates not reflected here are available at www.usac.org or from Pine Belt customer service.

Annual Income 135% Thresholds Based on Household Size (2016)								
1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people	For each additional person
\$16,038	\$21,627	\$27,216	\$32,805	\$38,394	\$43,983	\$49,586	\$55,202	+ \$5,616 per person

You must provide proof of your household income at the time that you apply for Lifeline Assistance through one or more of the following:

- Prior year's state or federal income tax return
- Retirement/pension statement of benefits
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement of Benefits
- Federal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- Social Security Statement of Benefits
- Veterans Administration Statement of Benefits
- Child Support document
- Divorce decree
- Other official document containing income information

If the documentation does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, you must provide the same type of documentation covering 3 consecutive months within the previous 12 months.

NOTE: The FCC's rules require Pine Belt to keep a copy of any of the supporting documentation you provide in support of your eligibility to receive Lifeline benefits.

Qualifying Based on Participation in Low-Income Assistance Programs

If you want to qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on participation in one of the low-income assistance programs, you must provide proof of participation at the time that you apply for Lifeline Assistance with one or more of the following:

- Current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state or federal assistance program
- A notice or letter of participation in a qualifying state or federal assistance program
- Program participation documents, such as a copy of your SNAP card, Medicaid card, etc.
- Other official document evidencing the qualifying person's participation in one of the listed state or federal low-income assistance programs

NOTE: The FCC's rules require Pine Belt to keep a copy of any of the supporting documentation you provide in support of your eligibility to receive Lifeline benefits.

Can I Subscribe to Any Pine Belt Service Plan?

- Lifeline customers may subscribe to any residential service plan offered by Pine Belt that includes landline or mobile voice telephone service, broadband Internet access service, or a bundle of broadband Internet access service and landline or mobile voice telephone service; and plans that include optional calling features, such as, but not limited to, caller ID, call waiting, voicemail, and three-way calling.
- The Lifeline discount may also be applied to family shared data plans.
- Wireless services are available only in areas where Pine Belt Wireless has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC"). Your principal residence must be within a Pine Belt Wireless ETC service area. Your coverage map provides an approximation of areas excluded or included under your service plan. Charges will be based on the location of the site receiving and transmitting the call, not the location of the subscriber.
- Outgoing international long distance calling is prohibited under your wireless plan. International roaming is also prohibited. All calling minutes under your service plan must be used within the local service area for which Pine Belt Wireless has been designated as an ETC in Alabama, as determined by your residential address. The airtime minutes used in long distance calls to the United States will be discounted from the plan. Roaming service (use outside of the local service area) will be billed at a rate of up to \$0.35 per minute. Minutes in excess of the minutes provided in your calling plan will be billed at a rate of \$0.35 per minute.
- You are responsible for the cost of a compatible wireless phone to receive service. Lifeline Assistance may not be applied to offset the cost of your wireless equipment.
- Prepaid wireless Lifeline subscribers may lose their Lifeline discount if the service is not used for 30 consecutive days. Pine Belt Wireless will provide you with 15 days' notice that your failure to use the Lifeline service within the 15-day notice period will result in service termination for non-usage.

Frequently Asked Lifeline Questions

Q. Can Pine Belt accept a copy of my paycheck as proof of my income eligibility for Lifeline Assistance?

A. The FCC rules require copies of your paycheck stubs for at least 3 consecutive months within the previous 12 months as proof of your income-based eligibility for Lifeline Assistance. A copy of your paycheck is not acceptable.

Q. If I babysit or am self-employed, what is acceptable proof of my income?

A. You may provide a copy of your prior year's state or federal income tax return as proof of your income.

Q. How can I get a copy of my Social Security Statement of Benefits, as acceptable proof of my income?

A. The Social Security Statement of Benefits is mailed to all recipients annually. You may obtain another copy from your local Social Security office. You should be aware that Supplemental Social Security ("SSI") is not the same as Social Security – SSI is a federal

income supplement program for blind and disabled people with little or no income and is not funded by Social Security taxes.

Q. Can I qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on my age?

A. Lifeline Assistance is not awarded based on age. To qualify, you must meet the income guidelines or participate in one of the qualifying low-income assistance programs.

Q. Do I qualify for Lifeline Assistance if I receive Medicare?

A. No. Medicare is not one of the qualifying programs for Lifeline Assistance.

Q. I have recently moved to the area and need telephone service, but I only have a temporary address. Can I apply for Lifeline Assistance?

A. You must provide a permanent residential address and a billing address, if different from the residential address, before you can receive Lifeline Assistance. If you do not have a permanent address (e.g., an address not recognized by the Post Office or a temporary living situation), you must provide a temporary residential service address or other address identifying information.

Q. Can I use a Post Office Box for my address?

A. Pine Belt can accept a P.O. Box or General Delivery address as your billing address, but not as a residential address.

Q. What must I do if my address changes?

A. If you move to a new address, you must provide your new address to Pine Belt within 30 days after relocating.

Q. Am I required to notify you of any changes in my income or participation in one of the low-income assistance programs?

A. You must notify Pine Belt within 30 days if you or the qualifying person in your household no longer participates in the government assistance program(s) that qualify you for Lifeline Assistance; if your qualifying annual household income exceeds 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; if you are receiving more than one Lifeline benefit or another member of your household is receiving a Lifeline benefit; or if you no longer qualify to receive Lifeline Assistance for any other reason. You will then stop receiving Lifeline benefits.

Q. Do I need to provide a deposit when I apply for Lifeline Assistance?

A. Customers who do not subscribe to Toll Limitation Service at the time of signing up for Lifeline voice telephone service may be required to provide a service deposit, consistent with the terms of Pine Belt Telephone Company's General Subscriber Services Tariff. Pine Belt Telephone offers free Toll Limitation Service to Lifeline customers for any local voice telephone service plan that charges a fee for toll calls that is in addition to the monthly price of your Lifeline service.

Q. When will the Lifeline discount be included on my telephone bill?

A. The discount will be applied to your account within two billing cycles and will be retroactive back to your approval date.

Q. Why isn't the Lifeline discount still appearing on my bill?

A. The FCC now requires Pine Belt to verify its Lifeline customers' continuing eligibility for Lifeline Assistance every year. If you did not complete and return the Lifeline Rate Assistance

Verification form sent to you by Pine Belt within 60 days, as required, your Lifeline Assistance was terminated.¹ You must re-apply for Lifeline Assistance in order to receive the discount.

Q. Who can I call if I have questions about Lifeline Assistance?

A. You may call Pine Belt's customer service representatives at 334-385-2106, or toll-free at 1-888-810-4638, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the Alabama Public Service Commission at 1-800-882-3919 or visit the following websites: www.psc.state.al.us or www.usac.org.

Q. Are there any additional requirements for receiving Lifeline Assistance?

A. All of the terms and conditions for receiving service from Pine Belt Telephone Company, as set forth in Pine Belt Telephone's General Subscriber Services Tariff and/or Price List, are applicable to services received under Lifeline Assistance. You may view Pine Belt Telephone's Tariff and Price List on this website at <http://www.pinebelt.net/regcompliance>. Additional terms and conditions for receiving service from Pine Belt Wireless may be found at www.pinebelt.net.

How Do I Apply for Lifeline Assistance?

- You may apply in person for Lifeline Assistance at Pine Belt's business office, located at 3984 County Road 32 in Arlington, Alabama, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applications for Lifeline Assistance for wireless (cellular) service are also accepted at our wireless retail relocations:

310A South Main Street (334) 295-5585
Linden, Alabama

5 Broad Street (334) 878-8000
Selma, Alabama

8 Camden Bypass (334) 682-9655
Camden, Alabama

117 West Pushmataha Street (205) 459-5585
Butler, Alabama

319 Washington Street (334) 683-4977
Marion, Alabama

- You must complete the Lifeline application form and bring proof of your eligibility for Lifeline Assistance based on either your household income or participation in one of the qualifying low-income assistance programs.

¹ In accordance with the FCC rules in effect before December 2, 2016, subscribers were required to return Verification forms issued prior to that date to the Company within thirty (30) days. Effective December 2, 2016, the allowable time for a subscriber to respond to the Company's verification request was extended from thirty (30) days to sixty (60) days. Therefore, subscribers who received Verification forms before December 2, 2016, and failed to return them within thirty (30) days, as required, were terminated from the program under the FCC's rules then in effect.

- If you have questions about Lifeline Assistance, you may call Pine Belt's customer service representatives at 334-385-2106, or toll-free at 1-888-810-4638, during normal business hours.